



08/949,366

#1 Election
PATENT 5-2499

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Sorensen et al. Examiner: K. Noland
Serial # : 08/949,366 Group Art Unit: 3651
Filed : 10/14/97 Docket: 424.83US01
Title : APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR VENDING PRODUCTS

RESPONSE AND PROVISIONAL ELECTION

RECEIVED

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

MAY 24 1999

GROUP 3600

Dear Sir:

This Response and Provisional Election is submitted in response to the Official Action dated April 14, 1999.

Applicants provisionally elect, with traverse, to continue prosecution of the Group I Claim 1-36.

Remarks

The Examiner has restricted the claims of the application into two groups, namely Group I (Claims 1-36) and Group II (Claims 37-130). The stated basis for such restriction is that the claimed process can be practiced by another and materially different apparatus such as transport of the beverage container to the delivery port by a sloped channel or guide. Applicants respectfully traverse the restriction requirement and the basis cited therefore.

For example, claim 1 requires the alignment of a robotic